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Press Release

Neighbor pleads not guilty in theft of Holocaust heirloom

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A 57-year-old Sharon man will be arraigned in Norfolk Superior Court tomorrow on charges he stole a family heirloom that his neighbor had brought out of Germany at the onset of the Holocaust, according to District Attorney William Keating.

Steven Zaharoff, DOB 03-21-51, of 9 Robin Road in Sharon, was indicted by a Norfolk County Grand Jury on June 5, 2008 on three counts: Entering a dwelling for a felony by false pretenses (Ch. 266, Sec. 18A) which is punishable by 10 years in state prison; Larceny from a Person over age 65 (Chap. 266 Sec. 25(a)) which is punishable by up to 5 years in State Prison; and Larceny of property valued at under \$250 (Ch. 266 Sec. 30) a 1-year misdemeanor.

Zaharoff pled not guilty to similar charges at his arraignment in Stoughton District Court on March 7, 2008; he is presumed legally innocent until proven guilty.

The daughter of then 87-year-old Charles Marks, who lived next door to Zaharoff on Robin Road, first reported the painting was missing to Sharon Police on October 23, 2007. The painting was of enormous importance to the family as it had been slashed by rampaging Nazis who had broken into the family home on Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938.

The family had originally believed that the painting might have been lost while Charles Marks, who is now deceased, was moving out of his longtime Sharon home into a supported living community. (The family search for the painting was the subject of a Nov. 8, 2007 by Milton Valencia in the GlobeSouth section of the Boston Globe.)

An investigation by Sharon Police Detective Kevin Bishop led to the charges in Stoughton District Court and a Grand Jury investigation led to the June indictments.

Mr. Zaharoff is on the list to be arraigned in Norfolk Superior Court at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 19, 2008, District Attorney Keating said.

Any and all defendants mentioned are legally innocent until proven guilty.